



# 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## *What Tribal Leaders Need to Know*

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will define who we are as a nation with the decennial census population count. It is vital that the 2010 Census have an accurate count of our tribal nations and American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. **Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

### The Census: A Snapshot

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years.

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: on tribal lands, the 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes citizens and noncitizens of all ages, tribes, races, and ethnic groups.

The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

### It's in Our Hands: Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters

Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal and state funds are allocated to tribes and states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.

Census data guide local decision makers in important community and tribal planning efforts, including decisions such as where to build child-care facilities, community centers, roads, and schools.

Tribal governments and planners rely on census data to determine where there is a need for social services. Federal and state agencies also use census data to determine vital funding for tribal development programs, education, and health-care services.

### Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe

The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person — name, relationship, gender, age, and date of birth, race (and within the race question, your enrolled or principle tribe), and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail or to a census taker.

Your responses are protected by law and strictly confidential. All census workers, including tribal members working for the Census Bureau, take an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. By law (Title 13, U.S. Code), the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including the tribal government, tribal programs, or any other tribal, federal or state entity.

[www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U





## 2010 CENSUS: Frequently Asked Questions

### Why Should Tribal Members Participate In The 2010 Census?

The 2010 Census will shape the future of your tribal community, define your voice in Congress and impact economic development and other opportunities for your tribal citizens. Federal and state agencies depend on census data to determine funding allocations for tribal programs. Census data can assist tribal leaders in their planning decisions about economic development projects and community service programs. Many researchers, the media and others use census data. Full tribal participation ensures that these data accurately portray the AIAN population. Census data are the official data used for U.S. population counts. Congress and other federal decision makers refer to census data when making political decisions.

### Why Is Working In Partnership With Tribal Governments So Important To The 2010 Census?

The Census Bureau acknowledges its government-to-government relationship with the 561 federally-recognized tribal governments. Our commitment to work in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) populations includes working with state-recognized tribes, urban and rural Indian centers and AIAN organizations.

In the past there have been challenges in obtaining a full accounting of the AIAN population on tribal lands and in urban and rural areas. The U.S. Census Bureau's mandate is to provide a complete count of everyone living in America. This must include an accurate count of AIAN people wherever they live.

### What Can Tribal Leaders Do?

- **Issue a resolution in support of the 2010 Census.**
- **Identify concerns and partner with Census Bureau Regional Office.**
- **Appoint a Tribal Government Liaison to work with the Census Bureau.**

### 2010 Census Time Line: Key Dates

<b>Fall 2008</b>	Recruitment begins for census workers to conduct early census operations.
<b>Spring 2009</b>	Census employees go door-to-door to update our address lists nationwide.
<b>Fall 2009</b>	Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.
<b>February–March 2010</b>	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
<b>March–June 2010</b>	Enumerators visit households and collect information for areas participating in update enumerate operation.
<b>April 1, 2010</b>	Census Day.
<b>April–July 2010</b>	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
<b>December 2010</b>	Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.
<b>March 2011</b>	Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).